NNCA
VOC FOR IOP/FN
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WILLIAM WADE/LONDON

SOVIET ARMS

ANNCR:

WEST EUROPEAN CONCERN ABOUT THE BUILDUP OF MODERN SOVIET ARMS IS HAVING A VISIBLE EFFECT ON GOVERNMENT POLICIES. VOA CORRESPONDENT WILLIAM WADE HAS THIS BACKGROUND REPORT FROM LONDON:

VOICE:

REALISTIC ASSESSMENTS OF MOSCOW'S MILITARY BUILDUP ARE AFFECTING BOTH DEFENSE BUDGETS AND DISARMAMENT PROPOSALS IN WESTERN EUROPE.

A BRITISH WHITE PAPER EARLIER THIS WEEK SHOWED HOW LONDON IS IMPLEMENTING A PLEDGE TO NATO FOR A THREE PER CENT INCREASE IN REAL SPENDING FOR DEFENSE. NATO SECRETARY GENERAL JOSEPH LUNS, IN A SPEECH HERE IN LONDON, COVERED SOME OF THE SAME GROUND, NOTING THAT MOSCOW'S RECENT ACQUISITION OF ADVANCED WEAPONS BEARS NO RELATION TO REASONABLE DEFENSE NEEDS. THE NEW MOBILE SOVIET MISSILE -- THE S-S-TWENTY, WITH ITS MULTIPLE WARHEADS -- MISTER LUNS SAID, IS CAPABLE OF TURNING EVERY EUROPEAN CITY INTO RADIOACTIVE ASHES.

BRITISH PRIME MINISTER JAMES CALLAGHAN WAS ASKED BY A LABOR LEFT-WING MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT ABOUT BANNING THE NEUTRON BOMB FOR BOTH EAST AND WEST. MISTER CALLAGHAN CONCEDED THAT THE NEUTRON BOMB, WITH ITS LETHAL RADIATION, IS FEARSOME BUT POINTED OUT THAT THE SOVIET S-S-TWENTY IS EQUALLY FEARSOME. AND THE BRITISH PRIME MINISTER SAID HE INTENDS TO TAKE THE MATTER UP ON JUNE SECOND WHEN HE SPEAKS AT THE U.N.'S SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT.

A NEW REPORT BY THE LONDON-BASED INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES SUGGESTS THAT THE LATEST SOVIET WEAPONS POSE FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEMS FOR ARMS CONTROL NEGOTIATIONS. THE REPORT, ON LAND-BASED MISSILES, SAYS THE INCREASED VULNERABILITY OF FIXED U.S. MISSILE SILOS IS LIKELY TO CALL FOR DEVELOPMENT OF AN AMERICAN MOBILE MISSILE FORCE.

WHILE MANY PEOPLE IN WESTERN EUROPE WOULD LIKE TO SEE DEFENSE SPENDING REDUCED, THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS UNDERMINE THE HOPE. LONDON'S FINANCIAL TIMES POINTS OUT THAT THE FURTHER NATO FALLS BEHIND THE WARSAW PACT IN CONVENTIONAL ARMS, THE MORE LIKELY NUCLEAR CONFLICT BECOMES. AND, THE NEWSPAPER ADDS, THERE IS NO SIGN THAT EAST-WEST DETENTE, AT BELGRADE OR ELSEWHERE, HAS BROUGHT ANY SLACKENING IN THE PACE OF THE SOVIET MILITARY EFFORT.

GH/RCS